

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-8. (Cancelled).

9. (New) A method of operating a home digital audiovisual information recording and playback apparatus, said apparatus having a set of electronic circuits managed by a central processor using a multitask operating system, the method comprising:

- displaying menus with user-selectable system operation options;
- enabling a selection of desired audiovisual information for reproduction;
- effecting payment for the desired audiovisual information;
- inputting a user personal identification number;
- downloading from a main server the desired audiovisual information only after payment has been effected and a valid personal identification number has been supplied;
- using said multitask operating system in order to reproduce audiovisual information during the downloading step.

10. (New) A method according to claim 9, further comprising:

- using in alternation two so-called first buffers for storing sound data; and
- using in alternation two so-called second buffers for storing video data.